IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 6, lines 9-11, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

FIGS. [[6A-6B]] 6A-6E are partial cross-section views of a close-up portion of a stent depicting various embodiments of asperities formed on the surface of the stent in accordance with the present invention.

At page 6, lines 12-14, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

FIGS. [[7A-7F]] 7A-7E are partial cross-sectional views of a close-up portion of a stent showing a coating covering various embodiments of asperities formed on the surface of the stent in accordance with the present invention.

At page 10, lines 3-15, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

A roughness factor, Ra, is used to quantify the surface roughness. In FIG. 5, a surface having asperities is outlined in two-dimensions by the profile 210. Profile 210 outlines the irregular protrusions 211 and indentations 212 of a surface having asperities. The roughness factor, Ra, is defined herein as the arithmetic mean of the absolute values of the profile departures 213 from a centerline 214 through profile 210, within an evaluation length 215. For a three-dimensional surface, centerline 214 becomes a mean

plane and Ra is defined as the arithmetic mean of the absolute values of the surface departures from the mean plane within an evaluation area. The digital approximation fort he three-dimensional Ra over an evaluation area is given as:

Equation 1: $$R_a = \frac{1}{MN}\sum_{j=1}^{M}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\left|Z_{ji}\right|$$

where M and N are the number of data points in the X and Y directions, respectively, of the evaluation area, and Z is the surface height of each point relative to the mean plane.

At page 11, lines 1-14, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

In general, surface asperities in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention may have a variety of shapes, some examples of which are illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6E, showing cross-sectional views of portions of stents with average thicknesses 310 and [[inner]] outer surfaces 312. Inner surface asperities 314 can be random and irregular, as exemplified in FIGS. 6A and 6B. The asperities 314 can also be more regular and well-defined, as exemplified in FIGS. 6C-6E. The asperities of the various embodiments of the invention may be formed by protrusions and indentations in the surface that can have a variety of shapes and sizes, for example, the rounded shape 318 of FIG. 6B, the pointed shape 319 of FIG. 6D or the rectangular shape of 315 of FIG. 6E. Moreover, as depicted in FIG. 6E, the protrusions and indentations of the asperities

formed on the surface cause the surface to have ridges 316 and channels 317. The protrusions and indentations may also have different densities on the surface, as illustrated by the difference between FIGS. 6C and 6D, depending on the requirements of the stent designer.